

King County Mobility Coalition

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22 2011, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4060

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Gaby Bell, Nathan Buck, Dorene Cornwell, Jackie Engler-Morris, David Gestaut, Melony Joyce, Craig Leisy, Ref Lindmark, Jacque Mann, Angela Miyamoto, Lynn Moody, Alex O'Reilly (Co-Chair), Pam Piering, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Bob Sahm (Co-Chair), George Smith, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart.

Guests: Micah Babinski, Shelley Hawkins, Kevin Koppes, Eileen LaFond, Doreen McGrath, Don Okazaki, Julie Povick, Viet Shelton.

Staff: Michelle Zeidman.

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

- Bob Sahm welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

New Introductions:

- Kevin Koppes is with the Northwest Epilepsy Foundation.
- Eileen LaFond and Doreen McGrath are with Seattle City Light.
- Don Okazaki is with King County Metro Accessible Services.
- Viet Shelton is with Transportation Choices Coalition and is Campaign Director of Transportation for Washington.

Announcements:

- Bob Sahm announced that Alex O'Reilly was re-appointed as Co-Chair for the King County Mobility Coalition by a unanimous online vote of the membership. Alex's new term is through December 31, 2012.
- Gaby Bell announced that the Access Evaluation Center has been remodeled to include part of a real Metro bus, which will be used during eligibility evaluations.
- Ref Lindmark shared an updated list of retailers for reloading ORCA cards; 85 locations are now available across King County.
- Michelle Zeidman announced that the North King County Mobility Coalition is hosting a transportation forum on March 16, 2011 at Northshore Senior Center.
- Alex O'Reilly recognized Margaret Casey, formerly with Seattle-King County Aging & Disability Services, for her efforts to launch the KCMC and her tireless advocacy on behalf of special needs populations. In recognition of Margaret's excellence, the Coalition will be giving her award, signed by its members, and a proclamation from King County Executive Dow Constantine honoring her service.
- Ref Lindmark reminded the Coalition about Metro's inclement weather plan and encouraged the group to prepare for snow, possibly this week. Information about snow routes is at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro>

Consent Calendar

- *2011 Lead Agency:*
 - Decision: the Coalition approved King County Metro as Lead Agency for 2011.

- *Appoint New Members and Alternates:*
 - Decision: the Coalition approved Stacey Devenney, Chief Operating Officer of Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation, and Michael McCann of Hero House to serve as the member and alternate (respectively) for the Mental Health Advocate/Service seat.
- *Approve November 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes:*
 - Decision: the Coalition approved the November 16, 2010 meeting minutes as written.

Northwest Epilepsy Foundation Trainings

- Kevin Koppes briefed the Coalition on the Northwest Epilepsy Foundation's free training opportunities for drivers and others who encounter people with epilepsy. These trainings include a PowerPoint presentation, a ten minute video, and a question and answer period. The trainings cover side-effects of epilepsy medicine, triggers for epileptic seizures and how to respond when a person is having a seizure.
- Cindy Zwart voiced interest in offering this training for Hyde Shuttle drivers.
- Bob Sahm voiced interest in hosting a training for Access drivers and videotaping it to enable future screenings for Access drivers and dispatchers.

Mobility Manager Update

- Michelle Zeidman shared that the Coalition's subcommittees have been very active, as described in the subcommittee reports. Ref Lindmark noted that the report highlights the Coalition's South King County Transportation Forum which was a great success, due in part to a significant outreach effort in South County. The forum was videotaped and can be viewed online. (*See subcommittee report for more details.*)
- Michelle also encouraged members to complete the member form in writing or electronically.

Transportation Opportunities Assessment Findings

- Micah Babinski briefed the Coalition about his findings from the transportation opportunities assessment for King County. (*See handouts*)
- Micah also noted that the first 2010 Census data is slated to be available in April 2011; however, the Census was shortened to 10 questions and does not include the same demographic data as previously collected in 2000. Instead, Micah will be updating the transportation opportunities assessment with five-year American Community Survey (ACS) data for all population groups except people with disabilities as the method of collecting disability data changed and usable five-year ACS data won't be available until 2013.
- Alex O'Reilly voiced interest in getting sub-regional data for East King County, particularly Bellevue and Kirkland data on older adults, which would be useful to the Bellevue Network on Aging and the Kirkland Senior Advisory Council.
 - Action Item: Alex will work with Micah to get this information.
- Angela Miyamoto voiced interest in seeing a map with all special needs populations combined into a single transit need index.

- Bob Sahm noted that this assessment will be useful for the next grant cycle to demonstrate need for existing services and their possible expansion.
- Pam Piering shared that Aging and Disability Services is working on their four-year plan and that this data will be useful.

Getting Around Puget Sound Brochures

- Gaby Bell briefed the Coalition, on behalf of Buffy Collier, about the partnership between the King County Mobility Coalition, Harborview Medical Center, Hopelink and King County Metro to develop a poster-size wall map and series of sub-regional brochures with information on available transportation services. With funding support from King County Metro, the Getting There Transportation Resource Center (TRC) at Harborview created three brochures: North King County, Southwest King County and South Central King County. These brochures have been published and can be continually updated as services change. The brochures and wall map have been used at the TRC since January, and will be available on the Coalition's website at: www.kingcounty.gov/mobilitycoalition
- Alex O'Reilly voiced interest in having a sub-regional map developed for East King County.
- Micah Babinski requested that Coalition members review the maps for accuracy, particularly the facilities noted on the maps.
- There was discussion about whether fixed route transit should be included on the maps. Gaby explained that it was not included on the map for clarity and simplicity but that transit route information is provided at the TRC.
- Melony Joyce noted that Metro is upgrading the Accessible Services portion of their website and that it will include the county-wide map and brochures.

Federal Opportunities Workgroup

- Lynn Moody briefed the Coalition on the Federal Opportunities Workgroup of the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT). Park Woodworth of King County Metro represented transit agencies and Lynn represented Medicaid brokers on the FOW. Bob Sahm, Melony Joyce and Michelle Zeidman also participated in the workgroup, which was charged with reducing barriers to transporting riders funded by multiple funding sources on the same vehicle.
- The FOW developed 13 recommendations, which it presented to the ACCT. The ACCT approved those recommendations at its February meeting. The recommendations can be downloaded online at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct/February2011_meeting.html
- Lynn noted that the FOW's consultant is finalizing the group's report, which will be presented to the Joint Transportation Committee and made available to the public. One of the recommendations was to extend the ACCT's work through June 30, 2013; this recommendation has been proposed as [HB 1979](#) and [SB 5817](#).
 - Action Item: Michelle Zeidman will forward the final FOW report to the Coalition when it is available.
- The FOW's work also included three cost-sharing pilot projects: (1) Medicaid Clients in King County; (2) Veterans on Key Peninsula; and (3) Seniors in Yakima County. More information about the pilot projects and the workgroup's activities is available at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct/FOW.htm>

- Bob Sahm shared that the state of our economy has created a great opportunity to tackle the long-standing challenge of transporting riders funded by different sources. The FOW's effort strives to serve more customers with the existing amount of funding and to make transportation simpler for customers and grouping rides less cumbersome for transportation providers.

Discussion of KCMC Meeting Topics

- Michelle Zeidman led a discussion about the results of the January KCMC member survey, noting that this meeting incorporates some of the survey feedback.
- The Coalition decided to include the following topics in its next three meetings:
 - May: State legislative recap; State and PSRC grant updates
 - August: Immigrants and refugees, including lessons learned via community conversations and discussion of what member organizations are already doing and plan to do to reach out to immigrants and refugees with special transportation needs
 - November: Review of promising practices for special needs transportation
 - Action Item: the Coalition agreed to form a subcommittee to help prepare for this meeting. Alex O'Reilly, Lynn Moody, Cindy Zwart, Gaby Bell and Bob Sahm all volunteered to participate.
 - Ref Lindmark noted that these promising practices may include technology tools, so the Technology Subcommittee may be a resource.
- Pam Piering suggested that one subcommittee report on its activities at each meeting; the Coalition agreed to move forward with this idea.

Metro Accessible Services 101

- Don Okazaki briefed the Coalition on special needs transportation resources funded by King County. (*See PowerPoint slides*)
- Don noted that 88% of seniors and people with disabilities who use a King County-funded transportation service are using Metro Transit.
- Don explained that about half of transit agencies in major cities provide service beyond the ADA. For example, Pierce Transit provides door-to-door service for all its Paratransit riders. King County Metro is unique in that it clearly defines which Access trips are ADA and which are beyond ADA (King County Community Transit).
- Don also noted that federal funds are only used to pay for capital expenses for Metro Transit (not including Access vehicles) and as matching funds towards the Vanworks program.
- The Coalition also discussed the Access evaluation process. Cindy Zwart shared that some community members have elected not be evaluated for Access because they feel the eligibility process is insulting. Gaby explained how the TRC is working to allay customers' fears about the evaluations; they are also planning to develop a 3-5 minute video about what to expect. Shelley Hawkins noted that the evaluation process has improved greatly over the years and that the TRC is doing a wonderful job of making it a friendly and comfortable experience. Melony Joyce explained that King County Executive Dow Constantine will be experiencing the Access evaluation process soon and that the TRC will be hosting an open house to show off their new set-up this spring.

State Transportation Budget Update

- Viet Shelton with Transportation Choices Coalition (TCC) briefed the Coalition on state transportation funding and on TCC's new Transportation for Washington campaign. (*See handout and www.t4transportation.org*)
- The tone for this legislative session was set by a \$4.6 billion dollar budget deficit.
- Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown and Senate Transportation Committee Chair Mary Margaret Haugen have formed a small group of legislators to look at how transportation is funded. Gas tax funding has mostly been allocated to bonds for existing transportation investments, leaving little funds for additional needed transportation investments. Discussions seem to be focusing on additional funding sources for transportation, including transit; however, it is still questionable whether a transportation package will be introduced this year and if so what it will include.
- [HB 1536](#) and [SB 5457](#) would enable transit agencies to ask voters to approve a temporary congestion reduction charge of \$30 per motor vehicle license to fund the operational and capital needs of transit agencies in King and Pierce County, and to help address their revenue shortfalls during this economic crisis.
- Sen. Scott White and Rep. Marko Liias are proposing a long-term transit funding bill that would create local voter-approved options for transit investments such as a motor vehicle excise tax based on vehicle value, a vehicle license fee based on annual mileage, a fuel-efficiency based tax, or a local sales tax on gasoline.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>